Mountain Weather Forecast

North Grampian

Including North and West Cairngorms National Park, Monadhliath, Ben Alder, Creag Meagaidh, Loch Ericht and Loch Rannoch
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 30 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 31 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 29 Dec 2023 at 16:12 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for Saturday and for less severe conditions on Sunday, but lower for snow and cloud amounts and wind strength Sunday and Monday. Low for broader weather from Tuesday.

Headline for Saturday 30 Dec 2023: An increasingly cloudy morning. Persistent snow and gales in the afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Blizzards High Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** Medium Likelihood	**Storm force winds** Medium Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
FOG							
Fog	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Light snow	Heavy snow	Sleet	Sleet
Precipitation probability							
10%	<05%	<05%	<05%	60%	80%	80%	80%

Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Weather: Dry but cold with some clear spells through the early hours. Cloud thickening and lowering through the morning. Persistent snow and summit gales reaching western ranges late morning, then the Cairngorms by the afternoon. Snow turning to rain below 400m around dusk, then below 900-1000m in the evening. Rain and summit snow turning light and patchy towards midnight.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70% in the morning. 20% in the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Very good visibility in the morning with the main cloud base well above the summits. Some patchy cloud around 1000-1100m. Cloud quickly lowering to 800-900m as snow arrives, with patchy cloud likely to affect lower south and east aspects. Near zero visibility in blizzards on the hills.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	30/38 NW	26/32 NW	17/23 NE	26/33 E	46/58 SE	58/74 SE	52/67 SE	35/44 SE	25/32 SE
900	21/25 W	15/18 W	10/12 E	23/29 SE	45/55 SE	61/75 SE	51/63 SE	34/42 SE	25/30 S
600	14/17 W	7/10 SW	5/7 SE	12/18 E	26/36 SE	41/56 SE	33/46 SE	22/30 SE	14/21 S
300	5/12 W	3/9 SW	2/4 SE	5/13 E	6/15 E	11/28 E	17/39 SE	7/20 SE	3/6 W
Glen	4/20 W	4/16 W	2/4 SW	2/10 E	4/17 NE	4/21 E	4/18 E	3/14 SE	2/10 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	-7/-18	-8/-17	-7/-16	-6/-16	-6/-18	-6/-20	-4/-16	-3/-12	-3/-11
900	-4/-12	-5/-12	-4/-10	-3/-10	-2/-12	-2/-14	-0/-10	0/-8	0/-7
600	-2/-7	-2/-6	-2/-5	-1/-6	-0/-7	-1/-10	1/-6	2/-4	2/-2
300	-0/-3	-1/-3	-2/-3	-1/-4	1/-2	1/-3	2/-3	2/-0	2/1
Glen	-1/-3	-2/-4	-2/-4	-3/-4	0/-1	2/-0	2/0	3/1	2/1
Freezing Level*	200m	100m	100m	200m	300m	400m	600m	900m	900m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Extremely challenging conditions on the hills with near zero visibility, heavy snow and severe summit gales making any progress very difficult, especially at higher levels. Note, freezing levels around 200m higher across the Cairngorms.

Forecast for Sunday 31 Dec 2023

Weather: Dull and grey with persistent low cloud and frequent mainly light snow flurries, falling as rain below 700m, in the south across Ben Alder and to the south of the Cairngorm plateau. Largely dry in the north with some bright or sunny spells, best of these across the Monadhliath hills. All areas turning drier with a few cloud breaks in the evening.

Maximum wind: Southeast 15 gusting 20 mph, 30 mph at first in the west. Becoming northeast 10 mph in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10-20% in the south, 30% in the north

Low cloud and visibility: Generally very poor visibility with persistent low cloud, with cloud bases around 400-500m, but bases around 700-800m in the north across the Monadhliath hills with a few breaks possible. Best chance of clear summits at midnight to the north of the Cairngorm plateau.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 1 Celsius, falling to zero Celsius in the evening.
At 800m: Minus 1 Celsius falling to minus 3 or 4 Celsius in the evening.
Freezing level: 800-900m.

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